

June 24, 2004

Dr. Mark A. Thomson  
Manager, Toxicology & International  
Product Registration  
Crompton Corporation  
Middlebury, CT 06749

Dear Dr. Thomson:

The Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics is transmitting EPA's comments on the robust summaries and test plan for Eicosenoic acid, methyl ester, (Z)- posted on the ChemRTK HPV Challenge Program Web site on February 12, 2004. I commend the Crompton Corporation for its commitment to the HPV Challenge Program.

EPA reviews test plans and robust summaries to determine whether the reported data and test plans will provide the data necessary to adequately characterize each SIDS endpoint. On its Challenge Web site, EPA has provided guidance for determining the adequacy of data and preparing test plans used to prioritize chemicals for further work.

EPA has reviewed this submission and has reached the following conclusions:

1. General. The submitter needs to correct the typo on page 3 under section 1.4 Introduction.
2. Physicochemical Properties and Environmental Fate. Except for melting point, EPA agrees with the test plan for these endpoints. A measured melting point needs to be provided.
3. Health Effects. As an alternative to the proposed testing, EPA encourages the submitter to consider the use of analog data to address this fatty acid. If testing is deemed necessary, EPA prefers OECD TG 425 instead of the proposed OECD TG 423 or alternatively information from the range-finding component of the proposed OECD TG 422 can be used to address the acute toxicity endpoint.
4. Ecological Effects. Due to the high log Kow and the very low water solubility no ecological effects testing is recommended.

EPA will post this letter on the HPV Challenge Web site within the next few days. We ask that Crompton Corporation advise the Agency, within 60 days of this posting on the Web site, of any modifications to its submission. Please send any electronic revisions or comments to the following e-mail addresses: oppt.ncic@epa.gov and chem.rtk@epa.gov.

If you have any questions about this response, please contact Richard Hefter, Chief of the HPV Chemicals Branch, at 202-564-7649. Submit questions about the HPV Challenge Program through the "Contact Us" link on the HPV Challenge Program Web site pages or through the TSCA Assistance Information Service (TSCA Hotline) at (202) 554-1404. The TSCA Hotline can also be reached by e-mail at tsca-hotline@epa.gov.

I thank you for your submission and look forward to your continued participation in the HPV Challenge Program.

Sincerely,

-S-

Oscar Hernandez, Director  
Risk Assessment Division

Enclosure

cc: W. Penberthy  
M. E. Weber